

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CERP 4250 - PETROLEUM STATISTICS

REF: A-8736 OF NOV 18, 1974

1. BULGARIAN PETROLEUM STATISTICS ARE VERY OLD WHEN PUBLISHED AND THEN NOT IN THE DETAIL REQUESTED IN A-8736. THEREFORE EMBASSY UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY CONCRETE STATISTICS FOR FIRST HALF 1974. FURTHER, PETROLEUM IS CONSIDERED STRATEGIC COM-MODITY WHICH GOB OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS. THOSE FIGURES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE GENERALLY DATE BACK TO 1972 OR EARLIER. IN PARTIAL RESPONSE KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED REFAIR, EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS WITH RATIONALE.

2. PETROLEUM IMPORTS - EMBASSY ESTIMATE FIRST HALF 1974: FIVE MILLION METRIC TONS CRUDE OIL, OF WHICH SOME 70 PERCENT COMES FROM THE USSR. ONE MONTHLY STATISTICAL JOURNAL INDICATES THAT

CRUDE OIL IMPORTS FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1974 WERE 6.7 MILLION METRIC TONS. BETWEEN 1970 AND 1973 CRUDE OIL IMPORTS ROSE FROM 5.7 TO 9.6 MILLION METRIC TONS, REFLECTING AT LEAST IN PART A RAPID CHANGEOVER

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FROM COAL TO PETROLEUM AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY. WHILE

THIS PROCESS MAY HAVE SLOWED AS RESULT OF ENERGY CRISIS, BULGARIA'S LARGE QUANTITIES OF COAL ARE STILL CONSIDERED TOO LOW-GRADE AND POLLUTING AS SUBSTITUTION FOR PETROLEUM. USSR PERCENTAGE HAS BEEN DECREASING SLIGHTLY SINCE MID-60'S WHEN IT SUPPLIED OVER 90 PERCENT BULGARIA'S CRUDE OIL NEEDS, AND DIFFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE UP BY IMPORTS FROM MIDDLE EAST. NO FIGURES AVAILABLE ON OTHER PETROLEUM CATEGORIES.

3. PETROLEUM EXPORTS - EMBASSY ESTIMATE, FIRST HALF 1974: NONE. STATISTICS INDICATE THAT IN 1950'S AND EARLY 1960'S BULGARIA EXPORTED FEW MILLION LEVA WORTH OF CRUDE OIL, BUT 1970 WAS LATEST YEAR IN WHICH ANY SUCH EXPORT FIGURE IS LISTED. PETROLEUM FIELDS NEAR PLEVEN, NEVER LARGE, ARE REACHING POINT WHERE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EXTRACTION PROCESSES WILL BE REQUIRED. EXPLOITATION OF BLACK SEA OIL RESERVES HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT DEEP WATER DRILLING WOULD BE EXPENSIVE, AND APPARENTLY GOB HAS NO RESEARCH ON THESE RESERVES OTHER THAN PARTIAL STUDY UNDERTAKEN BY USSR DURING 1950'S. NO FIGURES AVAILABLE ON OTHER CATEGORIES.

4. PETROLEUM STOCKS AND INTERNATIONAL BUNKERS - THERE ARE NO DATA AVAILABLE FROM WHICH TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE IN THIS AREA WHICH IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY SENSITIVE BY GOB.

5. CONSUMPTION OF REFINED PRODUCTS - EMBASSY ESTIMATE, FIRST HALF 1974: APPROXIMATELY 5.2 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CRUDE OIL, OR 0.6 METRIC TONS PER CAPITA. PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL HAS BEEN FALLING STEADILY IN RECENT YEARS FROM 334 THOUSAND METRIC TONS IN 1970 TO 190 THOUSAND METRIC TONS IN 1973. PRESUME CONSUMPTION IS FROM IMPORTS DESCRIBED PARA 2 PLUS PRODUCTION WITH NO REDUCTIONS FOR EXPORTS AND LITTLE IF ANY FOR STOCKPILING. A CORROBORATIVE NOTE FOR THIS PRESUMPTION IS THAT ACCORDING PUBLISHED INFORMATION, PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM HAS INCREASED FROM 716 KILOGRAMS PER PERSON IN 1970 TO 996 IN 1972 AT RATES SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IMPORTS. THE LARGE INCREASE IN TOTAL CRUDE OIL IMPORTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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1973 FROM LESS THAN 8.3 TO OVER 9.6 MILLION METRIC TONS WOULD INDICATE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION WILL BE WELL OVER 1 METRIC TON THIS YEAR.

6. THE NEXT STATISTICAL YEARBOOK IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH 1975, BUT IT WILL GIVE COMPLETE STATISTICS THROUGH 1973 ONLY. GIVEN THIS FACT, WHILE EMBASSY WILL

CONTINUE TO MONITOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR RELEVANT
STATISTICS FOR THIS CERP REQUIREMENT, ULTIMATELY WE
PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RELY ON ESTIMATES FOR SUBMISSIONS
IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
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